copies of which will be placed in the hands of the Members. You will see from that statement that some of the works have been finished and others are in different stages of progress.

A similar concession will now be given to the Members of the Quilon Division, who will meet under the presidency of the Acting Chief Engineer, and frame a programme of works for their Division, which would be given due consideration in the starting of new works during the next few years.

18. **Railway.**—The improvement in the earnings of the State Railway from Shencotta to Quilon continued in 1088, and the deficit which the Government had to make good to provide the guaranteed interest to the Debenture holders fell by Bh. Rs. 26,000.

The following figures in regard to this deficit, for a series of years, will be instructive :—

1080	Bh. Rs. 2,78,000.
1081	,, 2,19,000.
1082	,, 2,38,000.
1083	,, 1,78,000.
1084	,, 1,88,000.
1085	,, 1,71,000.
1086	,, 1,66,000.
1087	,, 1,46,000.
1088	,, 1,20,000.

The Government have reason to believe that the improvement will continue, and they confidently look forward to the construction of the Quilon-Trivandrum Extension—which has been recently taken in hand—to wipe off the deficit completely. The estimated cost of this extension is Bh. Rs. 29,72,000, and as His Highness' Government did not deem it expedient to add to the capital liability of Rs. 118 lacs outstanding against them on account of the Shencotta-Quilon Section, they have resolved to construct the extension wholly from their own funds.

19. **Anchal.**—The administration of the Anchal Department was satisfactory; there was an increase in the number of offices, in the number of covers posted and delivered, and also in the number of offices doing hundi business. Savings Bank work was introduced for the first time during the year in a few selected offices and has been found to be popular. A reciprocal arrangement was entered into with Cochin for the issue and payment of hundis as between the offices of the two States.

MEDICAL AND SANITARY.

20. **Vaccination.**—There was a substantial increase in the volume of vaccination work, the number of vaccinations performed rising from 1,46,000 to 1,78,500 ; and the number of cases verified by the inspecting staff rose from 37,500 to 56,500. The staff was increased, that of the field vaccinators alone rising from 60 to 103. The unfortunate prejudice against vaccination, so prevalent in the State, is, I believe, slowly giving way. Vaccination is now compulsory in four towns. The administration of the Vaccination Department during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory.

21. **Town Improvement Committees.**—The year opened with 10 Committees; and five new ones started work during the year, namely, Colachel, Padmanabhapuram, Changanacherri, Parur and Neyyattinkara ; so that, at the end of the year, there were 15 Committees working. I may add that, since then, four more Committees have been started, at Kuzhithura, Mavelikara, Haripad and Attingal, so that, we have now in the State 19 Committees. Three years ago we had only five Committees. The Government would now pause and watch the working of the large number of Commit-

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tees, old and new, before increasing the number. The number of non-official members has been largely increased in all the Committees, and they now constitute the majority in every one of them, as the following figures will shew :—

Name of Committee.	Total number of members, excluding the President.	Number of officials.	Number of non-officials.
Trivandrum ...	10	3	7
Kottayam ...	9	3	6
Nagercoil ...	9	3	6
Quilon ...	9	3	6
Alleppey ...	9	3	6
Alwaye ...	9	3	6
Kayankulam ...	9	2	7
Thiruvalla ...	9	2	7
Vaikom ...	9	3	6
Shencotta ...	9	2	7
Colachel ...	9	2	7
Padmanabhapuram ...	9	2	7
Changanacherri ...	9	2	7
Parur ...	9	2	7
Neyyattinkara ...	9	2	7
Kuzhithura ...	9	2	7
Mavelikara ...	9	2	7
Haripad ...	9	2	7
Attingal ...	9	2	7

Also, in the older Committees of Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam, and the new Committees of Shencotta and Kayankulam, the non-official members are now being wholly elected by the rate-payers. The powers of the Committees in regard to financial matters have been widened; and the Government grants to them have been guaranteed for a period of five years. So far, the work of most of the Committees is characterised by an amount of caution and sobriety which augurs well for their future. Taking all the Committees together, they began with a balance of Rs. 30,200, received Government grants aggregating to Rs. 42,200, raised by local taxation Rs. 63,400, expended Rs. 94,300, and closed with a balance of Rs. 41,500. The receipts from local taxation alone rose from Rs. 42,500 in 1087 to Rs. 63,400 in 1088.

22. **Medical.**—There were no changes worth mentioning in the Medical Department or in the management of the Vaidyasalas.

EDUCATION.

23. Education made progress during the year. The total number of the recognised schools rose from 1,698 to 1,763, and their strength from 1,78,775 pupils to 2,04,971. Of the total number of the recognised schools, about half the number, 828, were departmental institutions, and they accounted for 65% of the total strength. Taking the school-going population as 15% of the total population, 40% of the children of school-going age were under instruction in a recognised school, against 35% in the previous year. There was a strengthening of the Government schools of all grades during the year. Two new Professors were secured for His Highness the Maha Raja's College and steps were taken for organising the Honors' Courses in English Literature and History in that college. In the secondary schools, the liberal revision of the salaries of the teachers, sanctioned at the close of 1087, was brought into effect during the year, and it attracted a large number of graduates and trained teachers to these schools. The revision of the staff of the elementary schools was

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